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AUTHOR Tracey, Terence J.; And Others
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ABSTRACT

The existence of a formal body of literature is one of the defining characteristics of a profession, and publication of scholarly work in professional journals is an important component of professional identity. An examination of student personnel literature found that the University of Maryland at College Park (UMCP) ranked first in number of publications. A subsequent examination modified and extended that methodology to examine relative contributions within the faculty and staff at UMCP. Findings indicated that the counseling center was the most productive agency at UMCP for publications in the Student Personnel literature, producing more than three times the publications of any other department. The counseling center contributed more empirical studies, while the Counseling and Student Personnel Services Department tended to contribute more articles of a theoretical nature. The results suggest that the different service and academic orientations of the Counseling Center and the Counseling and Student Personnel Services Department may contribute to their different emphases in scholarly activity. (Author/JAC)

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COUNSELING CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
COLLEGE PARK MARYLAND

University of Maryland Origins of Publications in Student Personnel Journals

Terence J. Tracey, Ralph D. Raphael, Lydia Y. Minatoya,

Russell D. Miars, S. Ann Peabody

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A necessary component of any profession is the dissemination of knowledge and information among its practitioners. The existence of a formal body of literature is also one of the defining characteristics of any profession. Thus, publication of scholarly work in professional journals is an important part of professional identity, and such efforts should be reinforced and recognized.

Kuh and Bursky (1980) studied student personnel journals to see which institutions contributed the most to the literature in the field of counseling plus student personnel. They found that the University of Maryland (UMCP) was ranked first in terms of number of publications produced. The UMCP faculty and staff in the field of student affairs have good reason to be proud of their contributions to the field. The purpose of the present research project was to recognize the publication records of the UMCP individual departments, both academic and service-oriented, that published in student affairs journals. In addition, the specific type of publication, i.e., research or theory, produced by each department was studied.

Method

The methodology used by Kuh and Bursky (1980) was adopted for this study. All manuscripts (excluding book reviews, letters-to-editors, and editorials) published in the student personnel literature from 1970 to 1978, inclusive, and having at least one author from UMCP were included in the sample. The specific journals examined were: The Journal of College Student Personnel (n=34), the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Journal (n=4), and the Journal of the National Association of Women Deans, Administrators, and Counselors (n=15). In addition, articles in the Personnel and Guidance Journal that related to student personnel in post-secondary institutions were included (n=14). Each manuscript was coded for content type and for the author's departmental affiliation. Unlike Kuh and Bursky (1980) who gave equal weight

to all contributors or multiple author articles, each article was given a value of one. If there were two authors to a given article, each received ½ credit instead of a whole credit as Kuh and Bursky did. Because individuals at UMCP can have affiliations with several different departments, it was decided to allocate authorship to department by the percentage of departmental funding. For example, if a person were a single author of an article and half budgeted in the Counseling Center and half budgeted in the Counseling and Personnel Services Department (CAPS), both the Counseling Center and the CAPS Department would be given ½ credit each. If the author was a student and the article was based on a thesis/ dissertation, the author's credit was given to the academic department where he/she was affiliated. The single credit per article weighting system was employed since the publications themselves and not the number of authors per article were considered the important variables. Consequently, each article had even weight instead of each author. The latter change, funding classification, was used as the most equitable way to distribute credit since there was so much overlap of departmental affiliation by subjects in this study. The assignment of one credit per article and classification according to funding were the only deviations from the methodology used by Kuh and Bursky (1980).

The present study determined which articles to consider as pertinent to student affairs in accordance with the decision rules used by Kuh and Bursky (1980). Each article was assigned to one of four manuscript categories as follows (Kuh & Bursky, 1980, 388):

> 1. If the thrust of the article was a new conceptualization of student affairs, an identification of issues of problems of concern to the profession, or a statement of a position on a current issue, the article was assigned to the "philosophical/theoretical" category.

2. If the article reported the results of hypothesis-related inquiry (research) or used inquiry techniques to estimate the relative merit or efficacy of a particular program (evaluation), the manuscript was classified under the "research/evaluation" category. For the most part, these articles were data-based in the traditional sense.

3. If the article defined a substantive area of interest to student affairs professionals and presented conclusions based on an extensive search and consideration of previously disseminated information, the manuscript was assigned to the "review of literature" category.

4. If the article was essentially a description of a student service or a student affairs program on (a) given campus(es) and did not report a detailed assessment of the efficacy of the respective service or program, the article was classified under the "program description" category.

All articles used in this study fell into one of the four above categories.

The data obtained by the above coding, departmental source, and type of article were charted and examined for differences.

Results

The division of publications across the different departments/offices involved in student affairs are presented in Table 1. The Counseling Center accounted for the majority of publications from UMCP (60%) with the Counseling and Personnel Services Department (CAPS) being second (18%). In the majority of the journals surveyed, the staff of the Counseling Center published more articles than the other offices/departments. The number of articles of each

Insert Table 1 About Here

type for each department is presented in Table 2. The predominant article was research-based (67%) while 30% tended to be of a theoretical nature. The faculty members of the CAPS department published more of the theoretical articles, while most of the Counseling Center articles had an empirical research/evaluation orientation as defined by Kuh and Bursky (1980).

Insert Table 2 About Here

Discussion

The Counseling Center is the most productive department at the UMCP campus with regard to publication in student personnel literature. Without the publication record of the Counseling Center staff, it appears that the number one national ranking attributed to UMCP by Kuh and Bursky (1980) would not emerge. Much of the Counseling Center's publications are empirical. Given that many counseling centers do not stress research activities, the Counseling Center and its staff deserve to be lauded for their productivity and contribution to the student personnel profession.

Based on the examination of the breakdown of type of publication by department, it is apparent that different departments can contribute to the professional literature in different ways. The CAPS Department and the Counseling Center of UMCP appear to publish different types of scholarly work. A much higher proportion of the CAPS Department's publications tended to be of a philosophical or theoretical orientation. This type of publication is very valuable to the profession; theory-based articles can spark many different

research projects. Perhaps the CAPS Department's academic orientation and the Counseling Center's service orientation contribute to their different emphases in scholarly activity.

There are several limitations to this study. The intent of the project was to recognize and reward departments for publications in the professional journal literature of student personnel. In order to quantify the data, the publications were divided up by department according to the funding of the author. At UMCP though, a number of faculty and staff have affiliations in several departments; many of these affiliations are non-budgeted. One example of this non-budgeted affiliation is those Counseling Center staff who were completely funded by the Counseling Center and also had department affiliation as non-funded faculty. Another example is those faculty who were fully funded by their academic departments and also held non-funded Counseling Center Associate appointments. These non-budgeted affiliations were not counted in the study. Since the non-budgeted affiliations were difficult to assess quantitatively, their effects on the statistics can not be stated with any confidence. Due to the criterion used in assigning credit for publications, some departments may not have evidenced the strength of publications or contributions of staff that they may feel is accurate. Also, quantity of research publications is only a rough measure of contributions to the field. The different types of publications described require different resources and efforts, and they do not lend themselves readily to comparisons on the basis of quantity. Perhaps other more qualitative measures of comparisons, e.g., differential weighting for number of times an article is subsequently cited, should be analyzed, too. Another limitation, also evident in prior research in this area, is that this study did not account for inequities in staff size. Differential staff size either among institutions or departments within an institution bears some relationship to the potential amount of publication.

Yet attempting to establish percentage rates, for this study particularly, was not feasible due to the substantial frequency of non-budgeted departmental affiliations and our inability to quantify such affiliations.

References

Kuh, D.G., & Bursky, M. Knowledge dissemination by publication in student affairs: Who publishes what where? Journal of College Student Personnel, 1980, 5, 387-393.

Table 1

Departments of Origin of University of Maryland
Student Affairs Publications

	JOURNALS					
	JCSP	NASPA	P & GJ[a]	NAWDAC	Total	%
Counseling Center	20.67	1	6.78	8.43	36.88	60
CAPS	3.93	0	4.09	3	11.02	18
Student[b] Affairs	2.50	1	.50	1.67	5.67	9
Psychology Department	0	0	1.40	0	1.40	2
Other	4.50	2	.20	0	6.70	11
Total	31.60	4	12.97	13.10	61.67	
%	51	7	21	21		
# Articles Included	34	4	14	15	67	
Non UM Authors	2.40	0	1.03	1.90		

[a] includes only articles dealing with student personnel in post secondary institutions

[b] exclusive of Counseling Center staff

Table 2

Types of Student Affairs Publications From Different Departments of Origin at the University of Maryland

	Publications						
	Counseling Center	CAPS	Student Affairs	Psychology Dept.	Other UM Dept.	Total	%
Research	32.27	2.93	1.67	0	4.50	41.37	67
Philisophical/ Theoretical	4.19	8.09	3.50	.40	2.20	18.30	30
Program Description	.50	0	.50	0	0	1.00	2
Literature Review	0	0	0	1.00	0	1.00	2
Total	36.88	11.02	5.67	1.40	6.70	61.67	